

the debates and let's talk and let's vote and come to a result, and let's begin to lower gasoline prices. From the day the United States of America says to the world that we are going to find more American oil and we are going to use less oil, the expected price of oil and gas will begin to go down, and so will today's price of gas and oil go down.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate has passed legislation which will help our troubled housing market. This bill will reform the oversight of the government-sponsored enterprises—Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks—and also provided much needed relief for communities and homeowners combating foreclosures.

The first piece of this large housing bill is the Federal Housing Finance Regulatory Reform Act. This legislation will modernize the regulation of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks and expands their housing mission. By creating one regulator for the GSEs, it will make it easier for them to respond to the housing market and continue to create affordable housing opportunities for Americans across the country.

The bill also includes key provisions which will help homeowners and communities combat foreclosures. Foreclosed properties drive down the property value of surrounding homes, and communities are losing tax revenue, which will impact public services. Communities need the ability to take excess homes and make them livable again in order to recover lost revenue. The \$4 billion in CDBG funding included in this bill will allow for States and local municipalities to rehabilitate foreclosed properties and then get them back onto the market for homeowners to purchase or to be made into affordable rental housing. This money is vital to the economic recovery of communities that have been devastated by foreclosure.

Additionally, the bill has funding for housing counselors to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Housing counselors

will be able to reach troubled homeowners and find viable and affordable solutions in order to keep them in their homes. One of the most creative provisions to help at risk homeowners is the Hope for Homeownership Program in FHA. This program will allow homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments to refinance into a fixed-rate FHA insured mortgage and ultimately stay in their homes. The quicker these provisions are signed into law, the quicker families and communities can respond to their housing needs.

I am very pleased that the amendment which myself, Senators COLLINS, LINCOLN, and MIKULSKI offered was agreed to and incorporated into the bill. There are many problems that are a result of the collapsing housing market, and the emergence of financial scam artists is one of them. The amendment will better protect homeowners from scam artists trying to steal the equity out of their homes.

The passage of this housing bill is the first step to help our country from the collapse of the housing market. I hope that the House will act quickly and Congress can produce a comprehensive piece of legislation which the President will sign.

FISA ADMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for July 9, 2008, inadvertently omitted my written statement for the RECORD. The text is as follows:

Mr. President, I believe that we must pass a new FISA bill that enables our intelligence community to get the information it needs to stop terrorist plots while also protecting our civil liberties, by requiring a court order before any American is targeted for eavesdropping.

But I don't believe in blanket immunity for the phone companies. That's why, in the Intelligence Committee, I offered language to deny immunity to the telecommunications companies for their alleged participation in the President's warrantless wiretapping program. But that amendment failed—and failed miserably.

During floor consideration of the FISA bill, Senator FEINSTEIN and I offered a compromise amendment that would have required the FISA court to review the actions of telecommunications companies who participated in the President's warrantless wiretapping program. But it failed too.

Now I am backing an amendment by Senator BINGAMAN that would at least delay immunity until the inspectors general of the U.S. Government complete their investigation of the President's warrantless wiretapping program. Upon completion of the report, the Senate will have ninety days to act before immunity is granted to the telecommunications companies. This will allow us time to change some minds if real wrongdoing is found.

Overall, I believe this legislation significantly improves civil liberties pro-

tections for Americans while enabling our intelligence community to listen in on terrorists. This is an important step forward and I will support this legislation.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST ESTELLE "LEE" TURNER

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to SPC Estelle "Lee" Turner and his heroic service to our country. As a member of the Army's Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division based in Fort Campbell, KY, SPC Turner was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On July 2, 2008, he died in a hospital in Bethesda, MD after being mortally wounded by an IED in Afghanistan.

Lee had already served his country for 6 years in the Army two decades earlier, having finished his military service in 1989. Yet this wasn't enough. Even though he had gone above and beyond, Lee still had the drive to be a hero. After moving to Sioux Falls in 2004, he reenlisted in the Army at the age of 39, after the Army had raised its age limit. He looked forward to being deployed to Afghanistan, his first tour in the war on terror. His wife recalls, "He never seemed worried about it, this is something he believed in. He thought it was right."

Raised in a military family, patriotism was instilled in his heart from a young age. Lee's father served in the Navy for 18 years, and his grandfather was an Army soldier who served in World War II. His younger brother John is in the Army, and his wife is an Army reservist. Lee's awards and decorations include the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Combat Action Badge, and the Purple Heart. Lee enjoyed racing and fixing cars, and playing guitar. He had a fierce devotion to his family, and he will be deeply missed by those who survive him: his wife Leah, his daughter Lyda, his siblings, John and "Gucci", and his mother Gloria.

Specialist Turner gave his all for his soldiers and his country. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude, and the best way to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to our country. Mr. President, I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Specialist Turner. He will be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and